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**St. Patrick’s National School,**

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**FEBRUARY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Safer Internet Day & Cyberweek**

This year to coincide with Safer Internet Day, our pupils IT committee have organised a Cyberweek. This week will include coding activities, digital skills lessons, Stay Safe lessons on Cyberbullying, pupil competitions and more. 4th & 6th class will participate in an Internet Safety workshop with parent and Microsoft volunteer Emma Vard, focusing on the safe use of the internet, cyberbullying & appropriate disclosure via technology. 5th class will have a Cyberbullying talk from the community Gardai. Our Student Council hope to host the first national #kidschatie conversation on Twitter on Tuesday with schools from around the conversation under the direction of their teachers, sharing student views on technology and the internet.

It is a timely reminder for parents to review internet safety procedures in the home. We recommend that parents examine the Parents section of <http://www.webwise.ie/> for tips while family Internet Safety supports for parents can be found at <http://www.saferinternetday.ie/parents/>.

Cyberbullying is part of the Bullying programme for 3rd – 6th class and parents can see these lessons and resources at <http://www.staysafe.ie/parents.htm>.

**P/T meetings**

Parent/Teacher meetings for Junior & Senior Infant classes will take place next week on the 6th & 7th February. Parents can choose a time that suits them by completing the form outside the classrooms from **Friday 2nd after 2pm**. School will close as normal for infants from 2pm each day and we politely ask parents to arrange supervision for children and younger siblings while they attend their meeting.

**Voluntary Contribution**

Can we remind anyone who has forgotten to drop in their voluntary contribution for this school year that it is not too late. We sincerely thank those who have already donated this year. Receipts were sent out to all those who paid by cheque or cash for the tax year 2017. We kindly ask all those who donated €250 or more to complete the Tax cert included with your receipt and return to the Office as this will increase your contribution to us.

**Midterm break**

School will be closed on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February for midterm break. Enjoy the break!

**Junior Entrepreneurs**

This year 5th and 6th class are participating in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. <http://www.juniorentrepreneur.ie/> As part of this programme the children are encouraged to come up with a profitable business idea. Pitches are then given to three “Dragons” who choose “One Big Idea” for each class. All the children then work together to ensure their “One Big Idea” is advertised, marketed, produced and sold. A sincere thank you to Aoife Doyle and Peter Keane, two local entrepreneurs, who came into talk to the children about their experiences.

Keep an eye out for their unique products coming soon!

**Bingo Night**

Our PA hope to host a Bingo Night at Johnnie Foxes on Sunday 4th March. A great night to be had! More details to follow.

**Ash Wednesday**

Mass will take place on Wednesday 14th February at 10am in St. Patrick’s Church for those wishing to receive ashes.

**Trocaire Boxes**

A Trocaire Box will be sent to each family at the beginning of Lent. These boxes must be returned to the school on Friday 16th March as they are being collected. Please do not drop boxes in after this date as we have no way of getting them to Trocaire. Many thanks.

**Rugby**

We are delighted to welcome Jonathan Sharkey from Leinster Rugby who is currently providing rugby sessions free of charge to 3rd-6th class. All our boys & girls are really enjoying developing their ball skills & coordination. We hope to partake in a Rugby Blitz for 4th-6th class later in the year.

**Music in the Classroom**

3rd class are off to the National Concert Hall on the 6th February to hear the RTE Symphony Orchestra perform Music in the Classroom: Musical Adventures. We hope they have a fabulous time!

**Yoga for All**

As part of our continuing promotion of wellbeing & positive mental health, we are piloting a programme this year which will see all classes receiving 6 weeks of yoga and meditation classes with The Yoga Shed. This will begin on February 23rd and our pupils will be introduced to gentle techniques & exercises to improve flexibility while simultaneously promoting calmness and relaxation. We look forward to seeing the benefits to our pupils cognitive, behavioural and emotional needs. This programme is funded from our Christmas Fair fundraising and we thank everyone for this.

**World Book Day: Book launch**

World Book Day takes place on March 1st and this year we are delighted to launch our very own anthology of stories from pupils in 3rd-6th class. The children have taken part in an online publishing programme which has helped their development as young authors. They have been busy engaging in character development, plots, dialogue, description and editing their personal short stories which will be published by Emu Ink Assisted Publishing. Books go on sale on World Book Day at €10 each.

To celebrate the launch, 3rd-6th class will be allowed to dress up as a character from their own published story. Infants-2nd can dress up as a favourite character from a well-loved story or fairytale. We will have lots of fun activities on this day to celebrate the joy of storytelling.